

The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

The Tie That Should Bind All Women Together

Women of the twentieth century indulge in much misplaced sentimentality, which they falsely classify as philanthropy. Charity is now an unknown quantity. The New Testament interprets it as the greatest of all human attributes, and calls it love, but to speak of social betterment or welfare work now by that name, is not permissible.

Sentimentality often than otherwise falls in its aim, and does harm, alike to the person exercising it and to those toward whom it is exercised. Philanthropy does not always reach those it is intended to specially benefit. The abuse of institutions denominated as charitable, has caused workers, desirous of preserving their individuality and independence, to shrink from losing both by becoming pensioners upon publicly recognized help extended, often grudgingly and inadequately, to the helpless.

What is Really Needed. Sentimentality among women, is not sentimentality or philanthropy in their relation toward each other, but a practical strengthening of the bond of human relationship which binds them together in work, in sex sisterhood, in wealth, and in a common life.

Among the criticisms of woman which have passed so long unchallenged as to be accepted truths, is that which represents her as being the merciless judge and detractor of her fellow women. That women are hard on each other is the spoken or unspoken thought of men who live in glass palaces, and therefore should not be thrown stones. That they should be more mindful of each other's appeals and more ready to respond with willing help and sympathy is a call for which when it comes, is certainly true. Such mindfulness and such response voices the most pressing need of the woman's world of to-day.

Position Not Clearly Defined. Conditions for women who work have not yet reached the point that clearly defines the social position and claims of the worker. There are exceptions, of course, but the rule generally applied draws a wide distinction between the working classes, and what is known as the wealthy and privileged classes. The one looks on with careless, if kindly superiority, on the other, feeling itself widely separated from it because of environment, association and a different educational viewpoint.

Within the last few years women have grown more democratic. How and why? Because some women, rich, beautiful and possessed of every blessing which this world can bestow, have chosen to take up the cause of others who were unfortunate and needy, bridging the line of hitherto remoteness and separation by the outflow of warm, human sympathy and generous aid.

Kind of Help Extended. The help extended was simply what was needed to restore self-respect and opportunity to those who were sorely discouraged and cast down. There was no intention to tempt working women outside of the straight lines, which they are generally ready enough to maintain for themselves. There was simply the bulwark of support where they were weakest, the chance given for them to confront work again with the realization that members of their sex had gauged the depths of their struggle sympathetically, and that they were entering upon a newer and happier work-future because they had come out of the struggle standing, not alone, but with womanhood in general ranged beside them.

Should Learn to Be Comrades. This is comradeship, such as soldiers feel when they are marching shoulder to shoulder in the ranks. Women need to learn to be comrades, irrespective of external differences, advantages and disadvantages. A little less of what is owed to self and a little more of what self owes to others, in short, a higher and better understanding and practice of the great law of "meum and tuum," is worth more in the way of woman relating happiness and doing good than all the philanthropy and sentimentality in the world.

BETTY BERKELEY.

Pleasant Thoughts.

All the world loves a bride. On one brief day in a woman's life she is the most important person in her circle, and on that day friends would leave nothing undone that could add to her happiness.

It is precisely because college life is so distinct and apart that college training is of so great value. In the democracy of the college world the young men and the young women must work out their salvation through their own merits, thus unconsciously fitting themselves to do the same in their post-graduate course in the greater world.

From the hours of printing, when Gutenberg, awed by the possibilities of his great invention, turned over the leaves of the quaint Bible, which was the first work of his rude press, the worthiest function of the typographical art has been the multiplication of books that comfort, cheer, inspire faith, hope and peace and make strong the soul.

As civilization advances, card games of pure chance, in which the excitement of gambling furnished the diversion, are more and more supplanted by games in which the interest centres in the contest of skill and intellectual force. Formerly it was the soldier; today it is the mental worker who finds the greatest diversion in the peaceful campaigns of the card table.

Himalayan Housekeeping.

My housekeeping is a never-ending source of amusement to me, writes Mary Blair Beebe, in Harper's Magazine for March. Tandook came every morning for the day's orders, saying "Verrily" to all my suggestions, running the words together as though the whole phrase was one, and rolling his r's as sonorously as a Spanish. Certain he had no idea of the masculinity implied, for he sometimes varied his response by saying "Yes, madame." One could write a volume on the eccentricities of a Tibetan's English. "W" was always making Tandook say "sixteen meeleek" which is, being interpreted, "six tins of milk."

He was sometimes lucky enough to be able to buy a chicken from some passing Nepalese hillman. I have an over-keen to making the acquaintance of my animal food before it is ready for the table, but that I could never make a chicken understand. He always sought me triumphantly, with a squawking chicken under each arm. I must look at them and even lift them to see how heavy they were and how good a bargain he had made.



SIMPLE DESIGNS FOR SILK AND COTTON FABRICS.

L'ART de la Mode.

The Chief Characteristics

Here are some of the chief characteristics of the new styles, states the editor of L'ART de la Mode:

Practically everything shows the waistline from one to three inches above the normal position. The skirts continue to be narrow, but some of the new models show a panel back, stitched three-quarters of the way down, then left loose, while underneath is cleverly hidden an inverted box plait, which gives much greater freedom of movement than the early winter models.

There is considerable "cut" to the skirts, especially tailored ones. Then we see the two-gored skirt with the seam front and back, but varied so as to require a very nice manipulation of the material. One smart trotteur frock of fine dark blue French serge had this skirt with but two gores, overlapping in a slanting line in back and in front lapping correspondingly for a part of the way down, then back to the centre front, where the seam descended to the hem. The bodice was decorated with a huge single rever of serge both in front and in back.

Another new skirt shows three side plaits in the middle back, all laid in the same direction and stitched about half way down. A chic frock which showed this feature was a black and white striped serge. A border of black and white checkerboard design was cut from the material and applied as a wide band on the bottom of the skirt and to form the trimming on collar and cuffs.

Cuffs and Wrists.

Cuffs are short, not much longer than hip-length and very chic. They are characterized by wide backs, some novelty of cut under the arms and in front, and are rather loose and "boxy."

There are indications of the return of the bolero and Eton jacket. As yet they seem to be rather more a part of the gown than detachable, but it is said they are surely coming in vogue.

Stunning long wraps are of marquisette, either unlined, or lined with self-tone marquisette. Many of these lovely wraps are elaborately beaded in geometric designs. Others are trimmed with tarnished gold and silver galloon, or bronze green beads and galloon.

Excitement Indispensable to Women Who Are Sensational

It is a curious phase, but one which is undeniably real, that to many women sensationalism is as essential and as necessary as the breath they draw.

To such women a thrill, as they are pleased to term it, is altogether indispensable to relieve a day's existence of dullness and humdrum sentiment.

Constantly on the lookout in the most commonplace happening for an unusual element, events take on a sensational air and complexion to which they, far oftener than otherwise, have no claim. But the woman to whom excitement has become as needful as cocaine is to a drug devotee gets her thrill, and that is all she cares about.

The latest tidbits regarding the doings of people of fashion, the newest engagement, the most imminent divorce case and the most audacious invasion of a social climber serve as a background for the stories regaled by a sensationalist. Everything takes on a distorted view in her mind. She has so overcultivated her imagination that she sees what she wishes to see, and not actualities. Colored with her exaggeration, truth takes on a dangerously attractive fancifulness, which becomes popular in proportion to the cleverness with which it is exploited.

Such a woman reads the daily paper only with reference to the tragedies it prints. A murder case is studied even to its most revolting details. The pitiful minutiae in a trial for divorce are full of items to be remembered and recited with readiness for the amusement of a coterie of thrillers of the same mind as the one furnishing them. The police court annals and the thousand and one daily happenings out of which a sensation may be wrung furnish spoil for the purveyor of sensations.

A day which is barren of excitement is accounted a day lost by the sensation-monger. She feels cheated of her rightful dues, or the inspiration which enables her to freshen up incidents in phrases that wink and words that

jolly those hearing them, causing an impression among the women that might have broken out had "Puck" kissed them on the back of the neck in public.

As a sensation hunter has no proper idea of proportion in what she hears and her perceptions confused when it comes to a matter in which she herself is involved. To her commonplace enough issues are tremendous and trivialities too slight for mention, are magnified into events of real importance.

She has a very small chance for real happiness, because she does not look to the practical issues of life, being concerned instead with the unsubstantial and unreal, the ignis fatuus of her morbid and fanciful nature.

Returned to Fashion.

Cameos have returned to fashion, and are very showy. One sees them everywhere—at the bottom of negligettes on hats and on evening coiffures; as a garniture on the corsage, and on skirts to hold the drapery. They are even grouped to form original and novel girdles.

At the premiere of "La Fugitive" at the Gymnase, one of the heroines, Mlle. Yvonne de Bray, wears a gown of white tulle, richly embroidered in several shades, made with a slight square train, outlined with a blue fold of tulle, and presenting an exquisite touch in the form of an unusual girdle. Just imagine several cameos, set in a gold filigree as separate motifs, joined together by a narrow cordiere of coral silk!

Clothes Do Make the Woman.

The grandmothers of a generation ago who, at fifty and often at forty, donned white lace caps and gowns of black grenadine, and sat down with folded hands to submerge the rest of their life interests in the existence of the young people about them, forfeited a good third of the life which they themselves were given to enjoy. Clothes do make the woman much more than is realized, and just as continued mourning is inevitably depressing, so ten years can easily be added to a woman's feelings by the clothes which she wears, and the American woman, with her wonderful vitality and hold upon life, would make the greatest mistake in this generation to gown herself at forty-five, as did her mother at the same age.

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He Sat in a Queen's Lap

Ford M. Hueffer has a most interesting description in the March Harper's of how he, when a small boy in green velvet breeches, red stockings and golden curls, was given a seat in Queen Alexandra's lap at St. James Hall, London, Franz Liszt being the guest of the Queen, then Princess of Wales. Mr. Hueffer says:

"The prince and princess with the gilded armchairs immediately in front of me, and the prince and princess indicated to the master that he was to sit between them at the table covered with flowers. He made little pantomimes of modesty, he drew his hands through their grassy, he walked quickly away from the armchairs, and because I was just behind them, he suddenly removed me from my seat and left me standing under all the eyes, solitary in the aisle of the centre of the hall, whilst he sat down. I do not think I was frightened of the eyes, but I know I was terribly frightened of that great drawn, aquiline face, with the piercing glance and the marble, distant, inscrutable smile. And immediately just beside me there began what appeared to be a gentle and courtly wrestling match. A gentleman of the royal suite approached the master. He refused to move. The prince approached the master; he sat down beside him. Then the princess came, and taking him by the hand, drew him almost by force out of my stall. For it was my stall, after all. And when he was once upon his feet, as if to clinch the matter she suddenly sat down in it herself, and with a sudden touch of good feeling she took me by the hand—the small solitary boy with the golden curls and the red stockings—and sat me upon her lap. "I almost had no trace of the date on which I sat in a Queen's lap. For it was all so very long ago, the King is dead, the master is long since dead, the hall itself, the glamorous and romantic home of the Pop of one's youth, is pulled down and has utterly disappeared."

"As I went down the steps of the hall, intent on taking a cab, the crowd plying flowing out were astonished, and I dare say touched to observe that three four-wheeled cabs men, in their overcoats with all the little capes, had climbed up on to lamp-posts and were shouting:

"Three cheers for the Abbe Liszt!"

Using to Advantage Odd Moments of Time

It is curious to note, if a woman uses them to advantage, how much may be accomplished by seizing hold of what may be denominated as odd moments of time.

In cutting out blouses or house dresses for children or grown people, there are always a plenty of scraps to fashion into quilt squares and rag carpets, and to fill the bag for the rag man. So, in arranging the day's program, there are gaps which correspond in time to the scraps of cloth. They are the leftovers, and the woman who is clever turns them to excellent account.

The After-Breakfast Hour.

The woman who is a housekeeper may take the time in the morning while she is waiting for breakfast to get her market list ready and write out all of the articles needed in her kitchen and storeroom for the day. If she is a housekeeper who has to look personally after her housekeeping, as most practical women do, the employment of her after-breakfast moments will enable her to get her supplies immediately after the morning meal, settle details with the cook, or, if she is her own cook, put matters in convenient train for herself, and then have an interval in which to look after other household affairs.

Blind Man's Holiday.

There is nearly every day an interval known in the quaint phraseology of the Southern negro, as that "twixt daylight, dawn and dusk," in better parlance, as the gloaming, or blind man's holiday. It spells rest and leisure to the busy woman who is wise to allow herself some relaxation, or indulgence in a simple pleasure. If she is fond of reading and has a book or magazines on her reading table, she is sure to gain refreshment as well as relaxation, to use this corner of time to advantage in the acquisition of information about what other people are thinking and saying and doing in the world of literature and action.

Women who live in offices are often called on to wait the convenience of those whose work they have in charge. They will find themselves so much in the good in reviewing their entire day, if they have, as a precautionary resource against enforced hours of idleness, a bit of embroidery, some letters, to be answered, or some personal matters to be adjusted, that have been reserved for just such an opportunity.

The Summing Up.

Picking up illustrations and citing instances, might be multiplied indefinitely. Yet the gist of the whole resolves itself into the realization that all women with whom time means something, whose lives have a purpose, who wish for self-improvement and a broader education, whether they are home keepers or business women, would do well to be especially careful of their left-overs in time.

What Eve Says.

"The women men admire may be indolent, but the women they love most are usually idle ones."

"Men do what they think is fair or best for them in their dealings with men, but with women they do what is easiest for the moment."

"The way to hold a husband sometimes is to let him go for a while and then grip him in a new place."

"When a man ceases to call his wife 'adorable' and 'darling,' she does not need to consult her mirror. She may know that she has lost her complexion."

"I have never seen a woman in my life who did not admire a reformed man more than she respected just a good man."

"To be a suspicious bride is an incredible sacrilege against love."

Henry Venue Lace Work.

Heavy Venise lace, both white and cream, is used on everything, especially on suits of black satin or dark blue serge. In the shape of sailor collars and revers, showing the material underneath. Beautiful fleches, in a bewildering variety of shapes and materials, are also conspicuous on frocks of both silk, serge and the thinner marquisettes and linen. A smart morning frock of pink and white striped linen, with a deep hem of plain pink linen, has a wide collar of exquisitely embroidered linen, the whole frock being decidedly reminiscent of the dress of the early republic.

The New Colors.

In the realm of new colors, china blue, a sort of yellowish tan, a warm helle and a grayish green are in the lead. Among the pinks are rose, raspberry and old rose, shell pink, coral and fish pink. The blues include a pale blue, a lightning blue and a Pompadour blue among the lighter tints, and in the dark shades sallow and the smart king blue. Blanche, or mufin tan, is very good, and so is alabaster tan and a midnoon and chestnut brown. Oats, lotus and foliage green are much used, and the list further includes comete, a dark bluish gray, a light bluish gray, or porcelain, and pearl.

Worn in Paris.

They are making, especially for evening, quantities of aumonieres of black velvet, embroidered in tarnished gold, or of old silks, the designs of which are outlined with gold cord or soutache. For daytime the most popular are bags of black velvet, with no metal showing, a plaque of velvet turning back like the flap of a money bag, in such a way as to completely hide the closing of the bag.

Shoes of black velvet are still very popular, but they have a rival in the little shoes of beaded buckskin, which hit fair to soon dethrone the others. Especially for evening wear are they made of this beaded buckskin in the daintiest of models.

My Soul's Cathedral.

Light out of darkness,
Release from pain;
Joy out of sadness,
Out of loss, gain.

Strength from our weakness,
Rest from our care;
God recompenses
For all that we bear.

—James Henry MacLafferty.

Preserve Your Countenance.

Sleeves preserve the fair contour of the shoulder, and Paris fashion still clings fondly to the peasant sleeve, that is, the sleeve cut in one with the bodice. This is somewhat longer, however, and has a slight flare below the elbow. Your inner sleeves are more of the old-fashioned "tuck" style, with the tucks drawn into a band.

Coat sleeves are placed in the normal armseye, for the most part, and are rather plain. Some, however, have the flare below the elbow.